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RECORD KEEPER

TRY-IT MEANS JUST THAT... JUMP RIGHT IN AND MAKE CHOICES!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created this booklet just for you! It has many fun activities related to four different Try-Its.

- Try-It #1 National Wildlife Refuges
- Try-It #2 Endangered Species
- Try-It #3 Prairie Potholes
- Try-It #4 Prairie

Each Try-It will teach you about North Dakota wildlife and habitat. To earn a Try-It, just complete four of the activities listed after each section. You don't have to do the same Try-Its as your friends or your Girl Scout troop – unless you want to. Just have fun doing them!



Try-It #1 National Wildlife Refuges



Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Try-It #2 Endangered Species



Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

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Try-It #3 Prairie Potholes



Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Activity # _____ Completed on: _____

Try-It #4 Prairie



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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



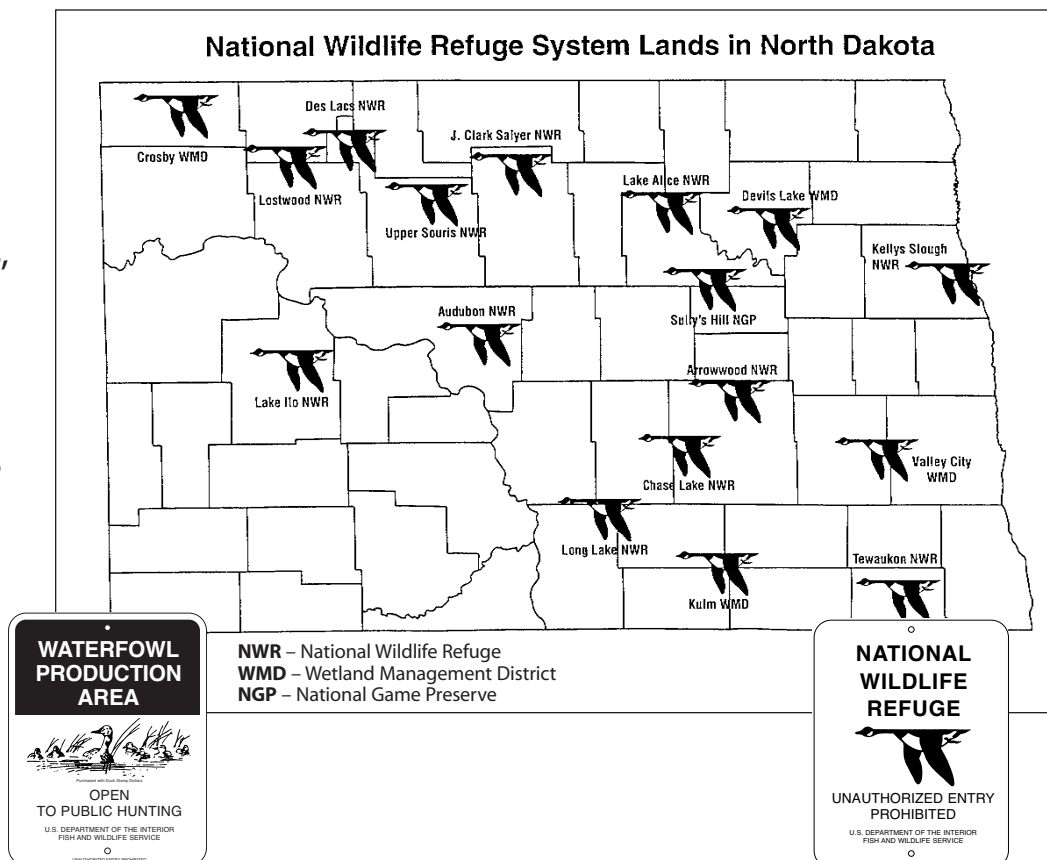
Habitat is a home for wildlife – it includes food, water, shelter, and space – which is everything that an animal needs to survive. Habitat is found in very special places called national wildlife refuges, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are more than 545 refuges in the United States.

There is at least one refuge in every state – from the hot deserts in the southwest, to the frozen land of Alaska, to the muggy swamps of Florida, and the grassy plains of North Dakota. On national wildlife refuges, wildlife comes first! Refuges provide important habitat for birds that migrate, endangered species, whales, fish, butterflies, bison, and many more wildlife species.



Over 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt, along with many other people, became concerned about the over-hunting of many of our country's beautiful birds. Large numbers of pelicans, egrets, and herons were being killed every day. President Roosevelt created the first national wildlife refuge in Florida, in 1903. It was named Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, and it protected thousands of birds and their habitat.

North Dakota has 62 National Wildlife Refuges, which is more than any other state. People who work at refuges also take care of 242,000 acres of land for ducks and geese called waterfowl production areas. These areas are spread throughout the state. The map at the right shows the larger refuges found in North Dakota.



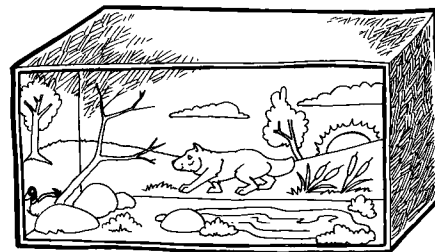
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



1. Homes for Wildlife

The most important thing that a national wildlife refuge does is to provide homes or habitat for many kinds of wildlife. An animal needs food, water, shelter, and space. If one of these four things is missing from their habitat, the animal may have to move to a new area or may even die.

▲ **Activity:** Choose your favorite North Dakota animal. Take a shoe box or other small box and make a scene that represents the animal's habitat. Make sure to include what the animal eats, a place for the animal to drink water, and shelter in which the animal may hide.



2. Stepping Stones

Many birds fly thousands of miles when they migrate between their summer breeding grounds and their winter resting areas. The blue-winged teal is a duck that nests in North Dakota and flies 6,000 miles to the warm waters in South America. On this long journey, the blue-winged teal needs places to eat and stop

for rest. National wildlife refuges are like stepping stones in a path – they offer a safe place to step. These stepping stones need to be located all along a bird's migration route to allow the bird plenty of places to rest and re-fuel their bodies with energy.

▲ **Activity:** Create a refuge stepping stone by decorating a paper plate – use a marker to write the name of a North Dakota refuge (see map on page 3). Decorate around the name using markers or crayons. Glue small pebbles, twigs, or grass to the plate for habitat.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



3. The Blue Goose Flies High

Many countries, states, and groups have symbols that represent them. For example, the bald eagle is America's national symbol and is used to represent freedom and strength. When national wildlife refuges were being created, a cartoonist named Jay "Ding" Darling drew a picture of a blue goose, which later became the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System. When you see the blue goose on a sign you know you are on a national wildlife refuge.



▲ **Activity:** Choose an animal that you think is most like you. Using paints, crayons, markers or pencils, write your name on the paper and then draw the animal. This is your symbol - hang it in your bedroom or on your door. Tell a friend, Brownie leader, or other adult why you chose this symbol for yourself.

4. Refuge In Your Backyard

Did you know that you can make a miniature wildlife refuge in your own backyard? By providing the four things all animals need in their habitat – food, water, shelter, and space – you can create homes for many different birds, butterflies, and other animals.

▲ **Activity:** Winter-time in North Dakota is very cold and snowy, which makes it hard for birds to find enough food. You can make a simple and delicious bird treat for your backyard feathered friends. Follow the recipe and then watch your feathered friends enjoy their treats.

5. Saving Special Places

A hunter must purchase a "Duck Stamp" each year to hunt ducks, geese, and swans. The money raised from the sale of these stamps is used to purchase wetlands and grasslands for birds that live there. Hundreds of special places including national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas were purchased in North Dakota with Duck Stamp money. Ducks and other wildlife need these areas to nest, raise their families, and to feed and rest during their long migration.

BIRD TREATS

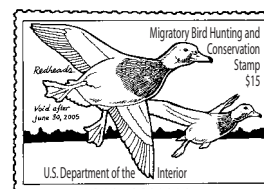
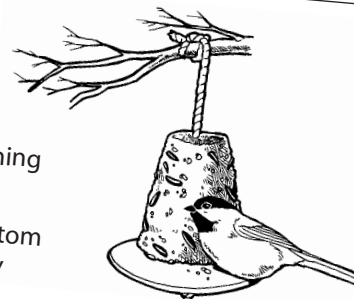
Mix 1/2 cup peanut butter, 1 cup birdseed, 2 1/2 cups cornmeal, 1/2 cup melted shortening in a bowl

Punch a hole in the bottom of a paper cup or empty yogurt container.

Cut a 2" circle out of cardboard and punch a hole in the cardboard circle.

Thread yarn through the hole in the circle and tie a large knot at the end. Thread the other end of yarn through the hole in the bottom of the cup.

Press birdseed mixture into the cup around the yarn. Pull yarn tight to the cardboard circle. Put in freezer over night. Peel cup away and the birdseed will be shaped like a bell and ready to hang from a tree.



▲ **Activity:** Find information about the Junior Duck Stamp Contest on the website <http://duckstamps.fws.gov> or by contacting the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge office at 701-724-3598. Follow the guidelines and paint, draw, sketch, or color a picture of a duck, goose, or swan. Send your artwork to the Contest Coordinator before March 15th.



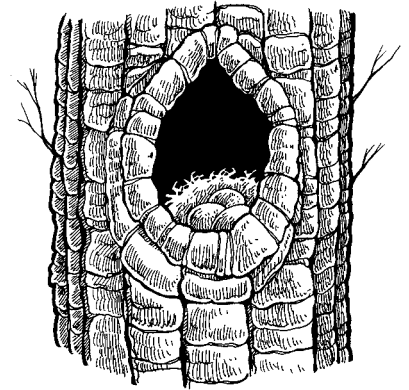
6. Bird Eggs

Bird eggs come in many different sizes, shapes, and colors. The size of the bird usually determines the size of the egg.

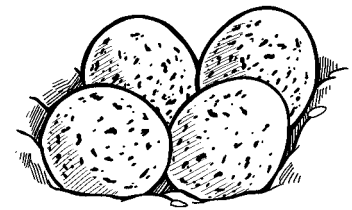
- A hummingbird egg is only 1/3 inch long and weighs less than 1/100th of an ounce.
- An ostrich egg is about 5 inches long and weighs up to 3 1/2 pounds.

The shape of an egg helps to keep it safe in the nest.

- Puffins are birds who build their nests high up on ledges. Their eggs are round on one end and pointed on the other. If the egg is accidentally bumped by the mother, the egg will not roll out of the nest but will move around in a circle.
- Wood ducks nest in a cavity (hole) of a hollow tree. Their eggs are round, but have little chance of falling out of the cavity.



Wood duck nest



Plover nest

The color of an egg helps protect it from being seen and eaten by predators – the color pattern is a type of “camouflage”. The color of a bird egg is different depending on where a bird nests.

- Birds that nest on the ground lay eggs that are colored the same as the ground. Piping plovers nest on sandy beaches. Their eggs match the color of the sand and have spots to help keep them hidden from predators.
- Tree swallows nest inside hollow trees where it is dark. Their eggs are white to help the mother see them so she won't accidentally step on one of them.

▲ **Activity:** Choose one of your favorite birds. Use a field guide to discover what size, shape, and color the bird's eggs are. Make a model of the nest and eggs by following the recipe.

Modeling Clay

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon salad oil
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- Food coloring (yellow/brown for nest)
(light color for eggs)



Mix ingredients in a saucepan. Have an adult help you turn a stove burner to medium heat. Stir the mixture constantly so it won't stick to the pan. Keep stirring for several minutes until mixture forms a ball. Remove from burner and dump the hot ball onto a flat surface that has been floured. Knead the dough as it cools.

Add food coloring to the remaining dough until it takes on the color of the nest you chose. Then put the modeling clay through a garlic or play dough press to make long spaghetti-looking strings. Shape them into a circle to create a nest. Add food coloring to more dough until it represents the color of the eggs you chose. Shape the clay into eggs and let clay harden.

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



When an animal or a plant becomes an endangered species, it means that there are not many of that kind of animal or plant left. Animals and plants that become extinct are gone forever. Some examples of extinct animals are: the passenger pigeon and the dusky seaside sparrow. Worldwide, over 1,000 animals and plants are endangered, and as many as 10 species disappear from our planet every day .

There are more than 200 animals and plants in the United States that are endangered. The main reason that animals and plants become endangered is because habitat is lost. Other reasons may include pollution, and illegal killing of animals. Without good habitat, animals and plants do not have everything they need to live. Plants cannot walk on legs or fly to another place. Sometimes all the habitat is gone or the remaining area is too small to provide a good home for an animal. Sometimes habitats are separated from each other and animals cannot reach them. For example, a black-footed ferret in Wyoming cannot travel to a prairie in North Dakota - it is too far.

In 1973, the United States government passed a law called the Endangered Species Act. This law protects plants and animals that have become very rare. It is now illegal to kill, bother, keep, or remove these protected animals and plants from the wild.

Animals can recover from being endangered. For example, the peregrine falcon was protected by the Endangered Species Act for many years. Wildlife biologists, land managers, landowners and other groups of people have worked hard to protect these birds and their habitats. Now, peregrine falcon numbers have increased, and are not considered to be an endangered species anymore.



Black-footed ferret

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



North Dakota's Endangered Species

Eight rare animals and plants either make their home in North Dakota, or use the habitat as a resting and feeding area during their long migration. These species are:

Whooping Crane (bird)

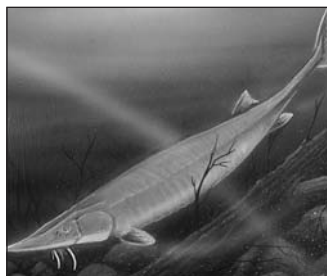
- Is the tallest bird in North America
- Needs wetlands to nest and find food
- Migrates through North Dakota in April and September



Whooping crane

Pallid Sturgeon (fish)

- Has lived since the time of dinosaurs
- Live in large rivers with strong currents
- Live in the Missouri River in North Dakota



Pallid sturgeon

Least Tern (bird)

- Is the smallest member of the gull family
- Nests on sandy beaches
- Lives along the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers



Least tern

Black-footed Ferret (mammal)

- Has a long, slender body
- Is the rarest mammal in North America
- Used to live in prairie dog towns in western North Dakota



Black-footed ferret

Western Prairie-fringed Orchid (plant)

- A white flowering plant
- Blooms in early July in the tallgrass prairies of eastern North Dakota
- The largest population in the world is found in eastern North Dakota



Western prairie-fringed orchid

Bald Eagle (bird)

- The adult has a white head and tail
- Nests in large trees and eats fish and dead animals



Bald eagle

Gray Wolf (mammal)

- Can range in color from white to black to gray
- Pups are born in a den in the ground, rockpile or hollow log
- Most likely to be found in forested areas of North Dakota



Gray wolf

Piping Plover (bird)

- Small bird that runs quickly across the ground
- Nests on bare, sandy shores of lakes and large rivers
- North Dakota's wetlands are very important nesting areas for piping plovers



Piping plover

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



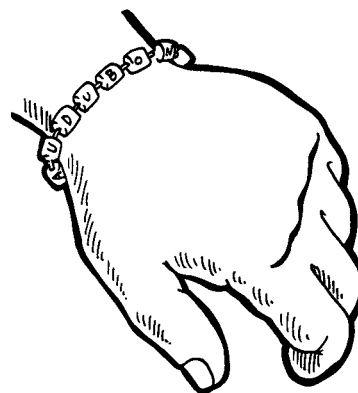
1. Gone But Not Forgotten

When all of one kind of animal or plant is gone, it is said to be extinct. There will never be more of that kind. Dinosaurs are a good example – once there were lots of dinosaurs, now there are no living dinosaurs. Another example is the passenger pigeon. Once there were millions of passenger pigeons, now they are all gone. We will never see a passenger pigeon again.



In North Dakota, two species of animals are now extinct: the great plains wolf and the Audubon sheep.

People are working hard to make sure that the animals and plants we have today will not become extinct. We can help by learning about extinct species and why they went extinct.

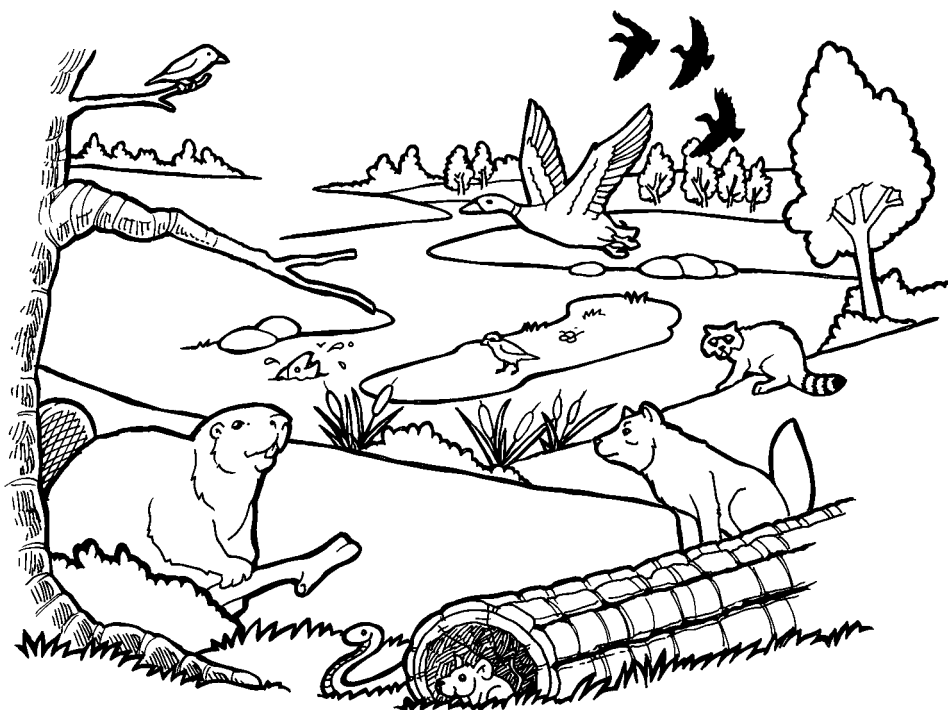


▲ **Activity:** Read about one of the following extinct animals in a book from the library or on the internet. Make a bracelet or necklace with beads that spell the name of that animal.

- Great plains wolf
- Audubon sheep
- Passenger pigeon
- Dusky sparrow

2. Home Sweet Home

Habitat is an animal or plant's home. Animals and plants need four things in their habitat; food, water, shelter, and space. Some animals live in the grasslands, in a wetland, along a river, or in a forest. If an animal or plant's habitat is destroyed, they will have no place to live.



Least terns and piping plovers are two birds that like to nest on sand bars or beaches of the Missouri River. The color of their eggs matches the sand to hide them from predators.

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



▲ **Activity:** Create a piping plover and least tern habitat picture using food items and tempera paint. See the picture for creative ideas.

Potatos or apples:

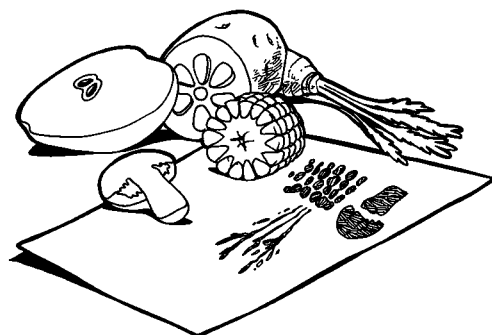
Take a potato or apple and cut it in half. Use a toothpick to etch a design in the freshly cut area. Use a small paring knife to cut away potato or apple that you don't want in the design. Dip the cut edge of the potato or apple into tempera paint and press onto paper.

Carrot or celery tops:

Use carrot or celery tops dipped in green paint to create plant shapes.

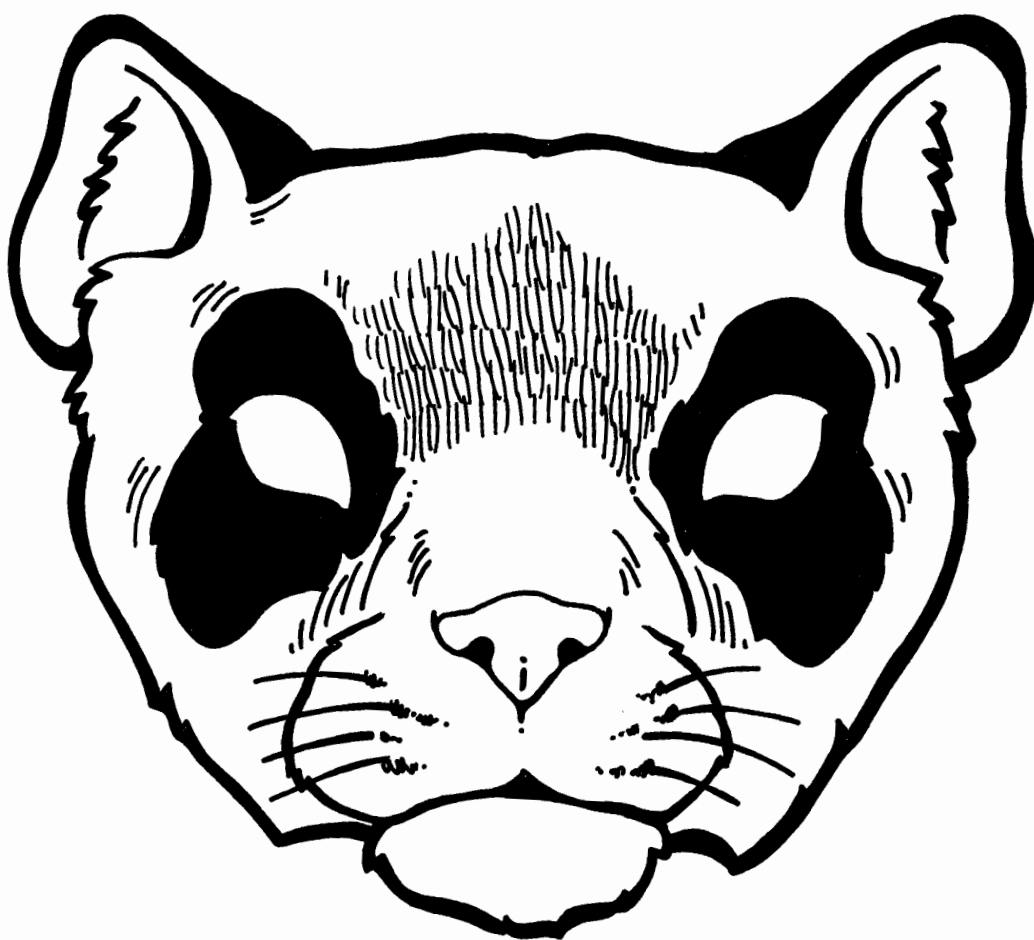
Corn-on-the cob:

Roll in paint, and then across paper to make gravel beach.



3. Jewels of the Night

The black-footed ferret is a nocturnal animal – that means they come out during the night to hunt. Nocturnal animals have a mirror-like surface on their eyes that reflects light outward. This greatly improves their night vision. The reflection that results when light (like headlights of a car) shines on them is called eyeshine. Eyeshine colors can vary between animals. A black-footed ferret's eyes are green, a fox's eyes are yellow and a jackrabbit's eyes are red.



▲ **Activity:**

- Use the pattern provided above to trace the black-footed ferret head on posterboard or construction paper.
- Color the black-footed ferret head.
- Carefully cut out eye circles and put emerald-green cellophane on the back of the head where the eyes should go.
- Find a flashlight and a darkened room. Hold the flashlight behind the eyes so others can see the eyeshine.

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



4. Plant Building Blocks

The western prairie-fringed orchid grows in the tallgrass prairies of eastern North Dakota. The largest group of prairie-fringed orchids in the world is located in southeast North Dakota. Prairie-fringed orchids are two feet tall and like to grow in wet areas. At night they give off a sweet perfume smell that attracts hawkmoths that pollinate the white flowers. Prairie-fringed orchids share the tallgrass prairie with over 200 other grasses and wildflowers.

Sometimes, people forget how important plants are to wildlife and people. Plants are the base or building blocks of any habitat because they give food and shelter to many animals. Tall cottonwood trees along rivers provide bald eagles a place to build their nest. Buffalo grass grows in prairies on prairie dog towns. Prairie dogs eat the grass and black-footed ferrets eat the prairie dogs. Plants are also important for people. Plants provide pasture and hay for livestock. Deep, thick roots hold soil in place to reduce soil erosion. Plants also provide medicine for people.

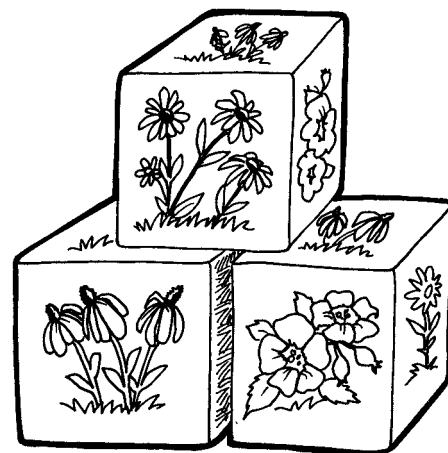


Western prairie-fringed orchid

▲ **Activity:** Look in books and on the internet to find names and pictures of North Dakota wildflowers. Paint wildflowers on wooden blocks or treasure boxes.

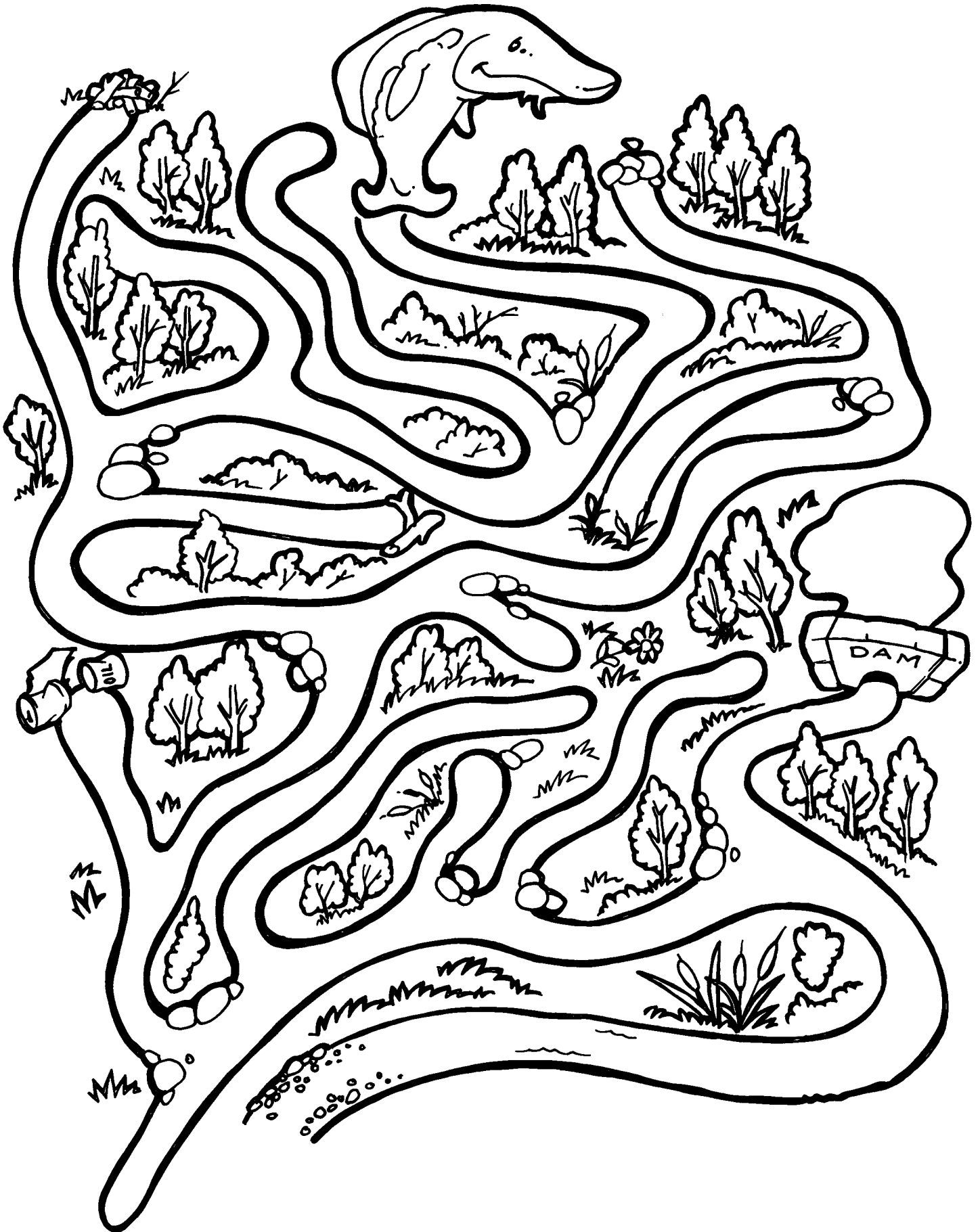
5. I Saw A Dinosaur Swimming By....

The pallid sturgeon is a type of fish that lives in the Missouri River. This fish lived when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Pallid sturgeons are endangered because of changes that people have made to the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Large dams have changed the once warm, shallow rivers to deeper, colder rivers. The Missouri River used to be many miles wide with little streams running parallel to the river. Now we have straightened the river and made it narrower so the water is deeper and runs faster. This has limited the amount of gravel beds available for the pallid sturgeon to lay eggs on. All of these changes have reduced the amount and quality of pallid sturgeon habitat, and there are now very few young pallid sturgeons being born.



▲ **Activity:** Complete the maze on the following page to help the pallid sturgeon find a place to lay her eggs.

NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

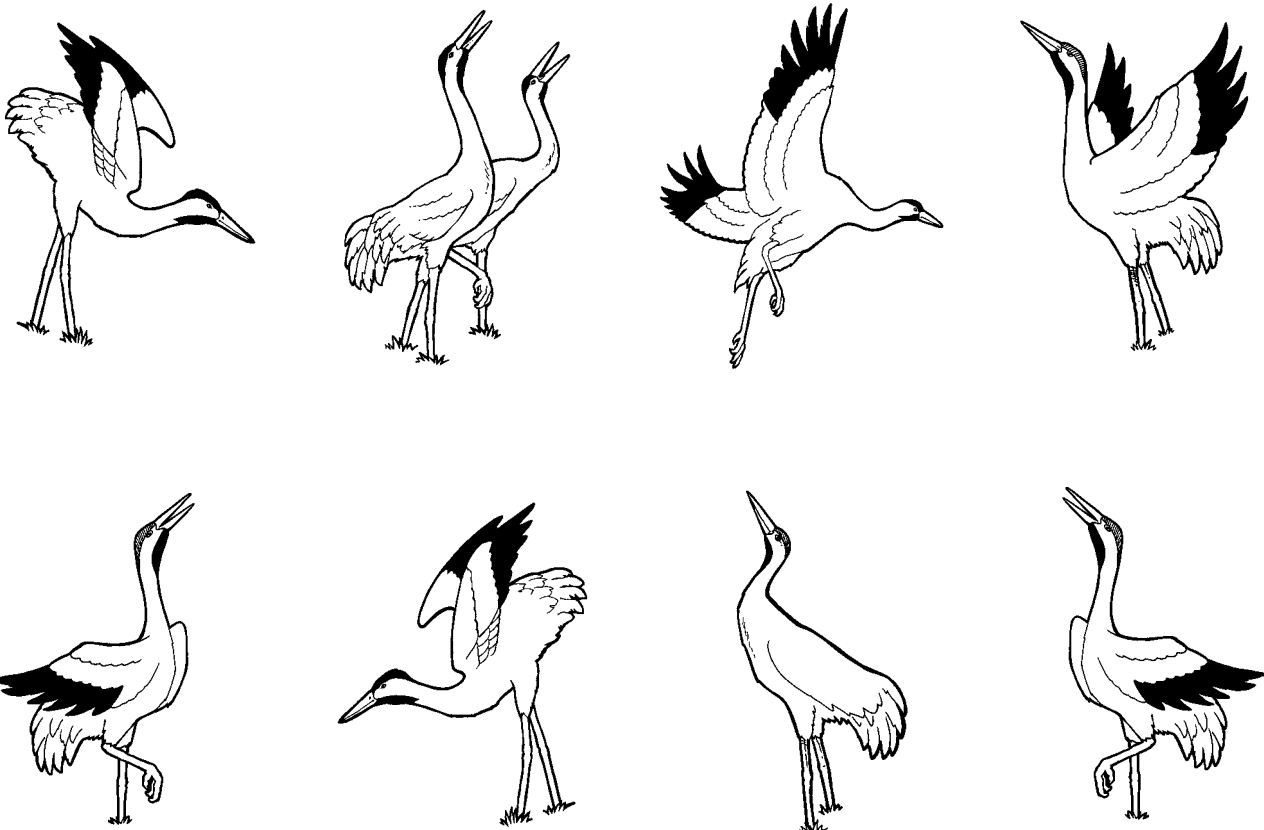


6. Dancing Birds

Birds use a variety of calls and movements to attract a mate and to communicate with one another.

- Male sharp-tailed grouse “dance” by stomping their feet and blowing air into air sacs on the sides of their head. These sounds are made to attract female grouse.
- In the springtime, western grebes stand up in the water and paddle so fast that it looks as if they are dancing on top of the water.
- Whooping cranes use their long necks and legs to communicate with each other. In the spring, whooping cranes bob their heads, bow, leap, flap their wings, and toss grass while making a trumpeting sound to attract their mate.

▲ **Activity:** Do a whooping crane dance by following the pictures below to immitate movements that a whooping crane would make.



NORTH DAKOTA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES



7. Success Story

Bringing animals back from the brink of extinction takes lots of hard work by many concerned people and groups. These people have had great success with some species.

The peregrine falcon used to be endangered, but now soars along the coasts, mountains and forests throughout the country.

The bald eagle is also doing well across the United States and may be off the endangered species list soon. In North Dakota, bald eagles can now be seen migrating through the state every year and there are records of bald eagles nesting along the Missouri, Sheyenne, and Red Rivers.



Peregrine falcon



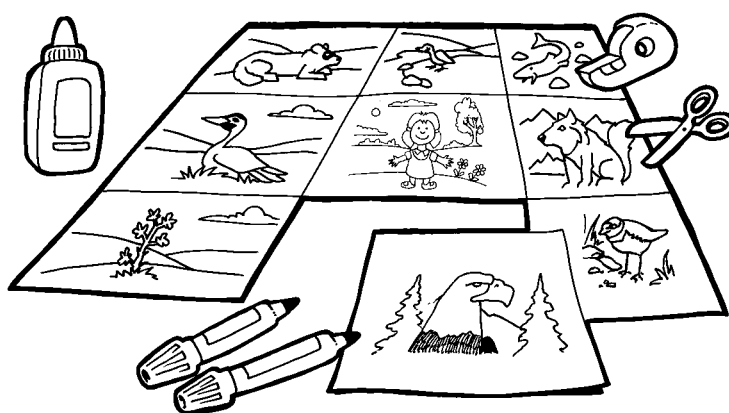
Bald eagle

▲ **Activity:** Make a banner or poster celebrating the return of these species. Hang your poster in your community or school.

8. Sharing our World

There is only so much room on the Earth. Both wildlife and people use the same food, water, shelter, and space. When something happens to wild animals we need to remember that the same thing could happen to people. When we poison our rivers and streams, the fish that live there can become sick or die. If people eat too many of these fish, they can also get very sick.

Imagine that the world is a giant quilt. Each quilt square represents an animal, plant, or person. We are all tied together by threads which connect us to each other. If one square is removed, the rest of the quilt is affected – it is no longer complete, as beautiful, or as warm as it once was. The same can happen with endangered species. If we start to lose animals and plants from our earth we are no longer complete.



▲ **Activity: Create an Endangered Species Quilt:** Take 9 pieces of construction paper – each piece of paper will represent one quilt square. Use markers or crayons, or paste pictures from magazines of the 8 North Dakota endangered species (one on each square). On the 9th square draw or paste a picture of you! Turn the paper over and tape the squares together to form a quilt.

NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIE POTHOLES

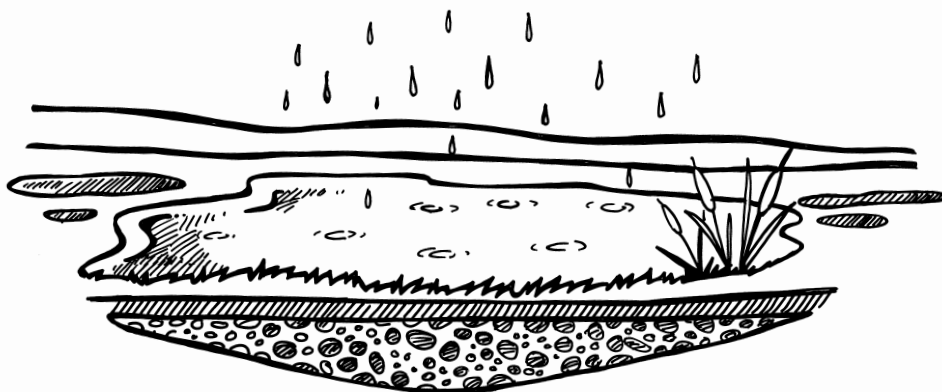


Prairie potholes are amazing places where water and land come together. Just like you may have one or more nick-names, people call prairie potholes a variety of nick-names including wetlands, sloughs, ponds, lakes, and swamps. The water found in the potholes may come from falling rain, melting snow, or natural underground springs. Just because they are called wetlands, it does not mean that they always hold water. The water level can change from season to season, and year to year. Some potholes hold water for only a couple of weeks in the spring, and others hold water all year long. There are times when wetlands can be completely dry.



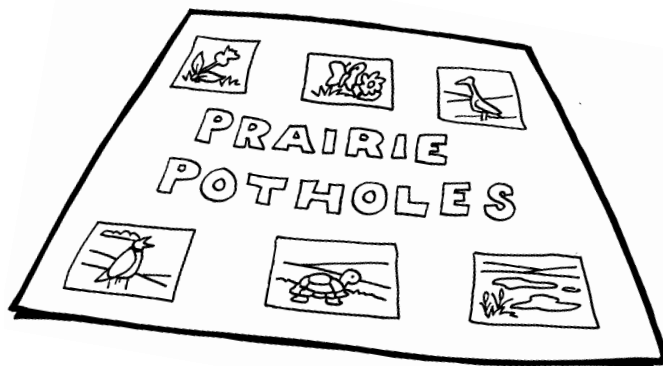
Prairie Potholes

Over 10,000 years ago, part of North Dakota was covered by a huge glacier. As this huge chunk of ice melted and retreated, it left depressions, and piles of soil and rocks. The depressions filled with water and are called potholes. The piles of soil and rock became the gently rolling hills. This landscape was later called the "Prairie Pothole Region," which spreads through parts of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Iowa, and Canada. The many potholes in this area are very important to the millions of ducks, geese, shorebirds, and other kinds of wildlife that breed and raise their young here. They also provide important areas for birds to rest, eat, and refuel before they continue on their long migration journeys. Many scientists consider the prairie pothole region to be one of the most important wetland areas in the world.



1. Prairie Pothole Photo

▲ **Activity:** Visit a prairie pothole with your camera in hand. Take a photo of the pothole, and then move in closer... take close-up photos of the different plants and animals that you see. Glue or tape your photos onto a poster board. Use colored pencils or crayons to draw pictures of birds, animals, animal foot prints, and feathers on the poster board.



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIE POTHOLES



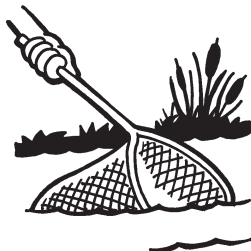
2. Insects Up Close!

Take a close-up look at the water in a prairie pothole. You can find many wetland insects and other small animals which are food for ducks, frogs, turtles, fish, and other wetland wildlife. Some of these small creatures are predators – that means they eat other animals. Can you spot some bright red creatures swimming in the water? They are called water mites. These tiny creatures attack other insects that live in the water. The mites attach themselves to their prey and suck out the body juices with their tiny, straw-like mouths.

▲ **Activity:** Scoop Them Up...



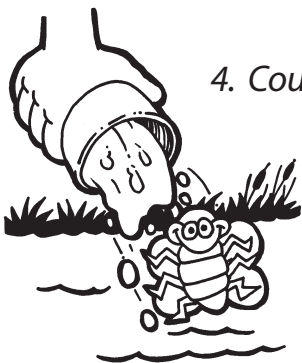
1. Fill a jar with water from a prairie pothole. Set it in a dry, level place.



2. Use a net to collect insects by sweeping it through the water.



3. Put the insects in a jar using a tweezer or eye dropper.



4. Count the **total number** of insects in the jar.

5. Count **how many different kinds** of insects are in the jar.



6. When you have finished looking at the insects, carefully return them to the wetland.

NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIE POTHOLES



3. Bird Beaks

The shape of a bird's beak can help you learn what kind of food it eats and where it feeds. Birds with very long beaks often poke them into muddy or sandy water to find food. A sharp, curved beak is used to tear meat.

▲ **Activity:** Read the clues and draw a line to match each description with the correct bird.

Bald eagle

I have a sharp, curved beak that helps me tear into fish or other meat.

Marbled godwit

My bill is long and thin and I use it to poke into the sand, mud, and water to find insects to eat.

Great blue heron

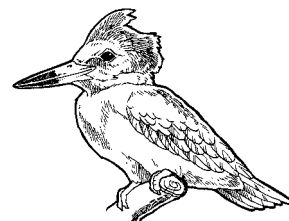
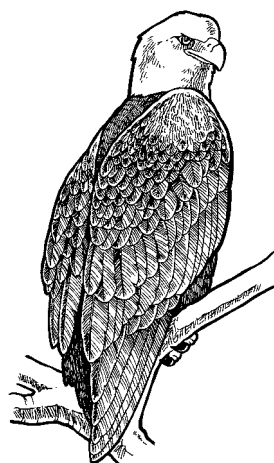
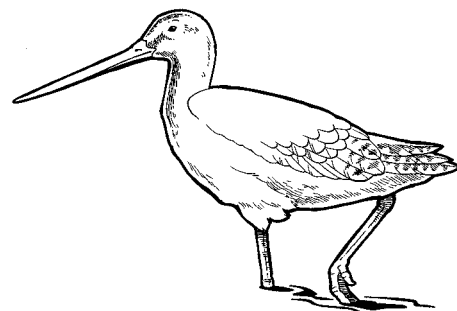
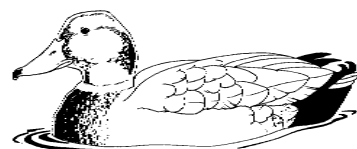
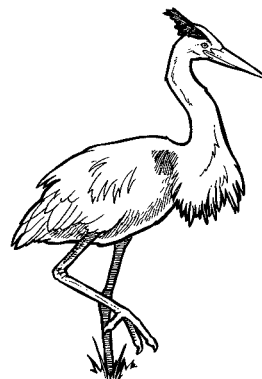
I have a knife-like bill that is used to stab a fish, frog, or salamander that is near the water's edge.

Belted kingfisher

I dive through the air and into the water to grab a fish with my long, thick beak.

Mallard duck

Bumpy edges that look like small teeth on a comb are found along the edges of my bill. When I suck water in and then squirt it back out, these bumpy edges strain the food from the water.



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIE POTHOLES



4. "A Bird's First Home" Snack

Many birds live in and around prairie potholes. Blackbirds, wrens, ducks, and other birds often build their nests in plants that are found in and around prairie potholes.

▲ **Activity:** Follow the recipe and cook up a bird nest snack for family and friends.

"A Bird's First Home" Snack

1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup shredded coconut

Melt 1 cup chocolate chips in a pan. Stir in 1 cup shredded coconut. Drop a tablespoon full onto waxed paper and form into a small bird nest. When the nest is cool, add jelly beans to represent bird eggs.

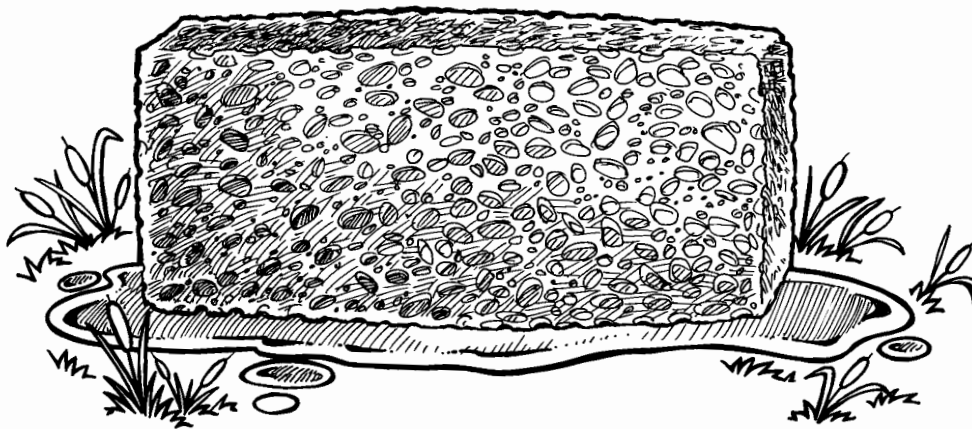
Optional: May use shredded wheat or chow mein noodles instead of coconut if you like.



5. Soaking It Up

A prairie pothole is like a sponge. It soaks up and holds water when the snow melts and when it rains. Without these potholes, much of the rain and snowmelt would run over the land and we would have much more flooding occurring.

▲ **Activity:** Fill a small bowl with one cup of water. Set a dry sponge in the bowl and let it absorb the water. Slowly squeeze the wet sponge to see how a pothole gradually releases water into the ground.



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIES



Prairie grasslands are the main kind of habitat in North Dakota. Prairie is made up of grasses, colorful wildflowers, and scattered shrubs (small trees). As early European settlers traveled across the prairie, they commented that it was like crossing “a sea of grass” because the wind moved across the grass causing it to ripple like waves on an ocean.

North Dakota has two kinds of prairie – tallgrass prairie and mixed grass prairie. Tallgrass prairies are found on the eastern edge of the state, and receives more rain and snow than the mixed grass prairies in central and western North Dakota.

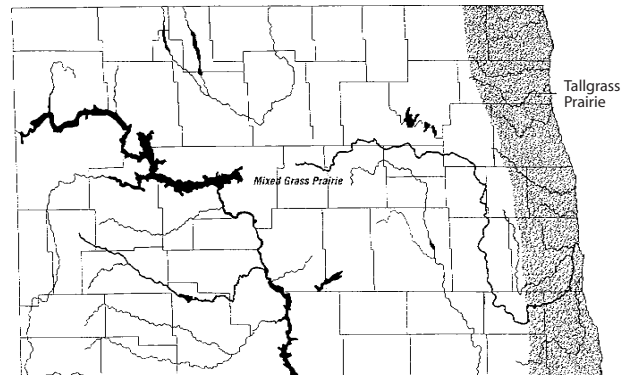


1. Prairie Outing

Take a walk through some prairie near your home. The prairie might be in your backyard, or land that a friend or relative owns. You can also find prairie on a national wildlife refuge, wildlife management area, national grassland, or parks.

▲ **Activity:** Use your senses to search for the items below, but remember to **NEVER** taste any wild plant, berry, or mushroom. Place a check mark on the blank beside each item that you find.

North Dakota Prairies



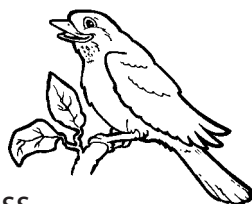
Things to See

- _____purple flower
- _____feather
- _____animal droppings
- _____hole
- _____insect
- _____animal track
- _____wetland
- _____spider web
- _____flying bird
- _____yellow flower



Things to Hear

- _____a singing bird
- _____wind in the grass
- _____a buzzing insect
- _____a sound made by humans



Things to Feel

- _____something fluffy
- _____something sticky
- _____something smooth
- _____soil
- _____rock
- _____flower petal



Things to Smell

- _____plant that smells good
- _____plant that smells bad
- _____mud
- _____flower
- _____green grass
- _____brown grass



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIES



2. Wildflower Investigation

▲ **Activity:** *There are many kinds of wildflowers on the prairie. Choose a favorite flower and investigate it for a few minutes. Take a picture of it in your mind. Look closely at the shape of the leaves, petals and seeds. Draw a picture of your flower using paints, colored pencils, or crayons.*

Answer the following questions:

1. Do you see any insects using your flower?
2. Are there any holes or chew marks on the leaves?
3. Does the stem of the flower have a round, square, or triangle shape?
4. What shape are the leaves?
5. Are the leaves smooth, shiny, rough, or have tiny hairs on them?



3. Plant a Prairie

▲ **Activity:**

1. *Collect seeds from the prairie, either by hand or by walking through the grassland with long socks pulled up over your pants. The seeds will stick to your socks.*
2. *After you've collected the seeds, plant them in a small flower pot, milk carton, or paper cup. Place your container near a window in the house or outside.*
3. *Once the plants start to grow and reach 3- 4 inches in height, you can transplant them in the ground.*
4. *Turn a section of your garden or yard into a natural prairie habitat.*



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIES



4. Prairie Wobblers

▲ **Activity:** Create a wobbly prairie bird from a plastic egg and other craft supplies that you may have at home.

Materials Needed:

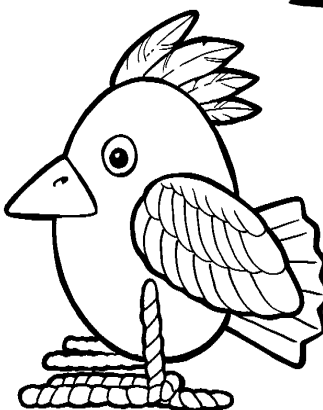
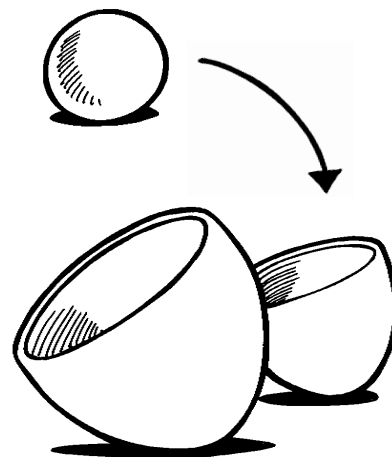
large plastic egg
construction paper
pipe-cleaner
tissue paper (brown, yellow, black)
cut into 1-inch squares
scissors
modeling clay
tape or glue

Directions:

1. Roll a piece of clay into a ball about the size of a large gum ball. Open the plastic egg and press the clay in the center of the smaller half of the egg. Put the egg back together and see if it will stand up. If it does not stand up, you may need to add more clay to the egg.

2. Look at pictures of birds in a bird book. Choose the bird that you would like your "prairie wobbler" to resemble. Some ideas include: western meadowlark, sharp-tailed grouse, or burrowing owl. Cut the bird's eyes, beak, wings, and feet from the construction paper. To use the tissue paper, put the eraser end of a pencil in the center of a 1" square and twirl. Glue the pointed end of the tissue to the egg for a puffy feather-like look. The pipe-cleaner can be used to make feet or a beak.

3. Use tape or glue to attach the parts onto the egg. (Tip for using the glue: let the glue become tacky before you press the bird parts on.) When you are finished, give your little bird a push and watch it wobble.



Meadowlark



Burrowing owl

NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIES



5. Prairie Mobile

▲ **Activity:** Learn about wildlife found on the prairie by making a prairie mobile. To help you complete the project, you will need to know what the following words mean:

Predator – an animal that eats other animals for food

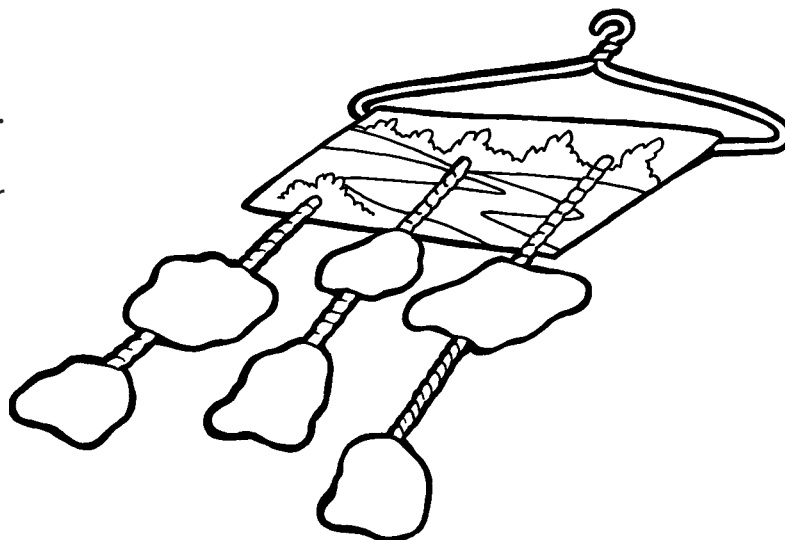
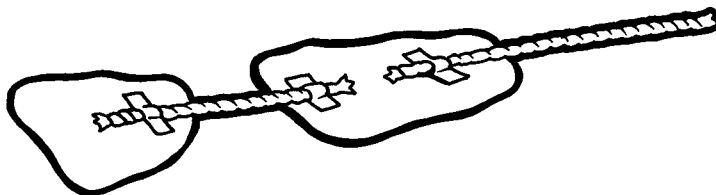
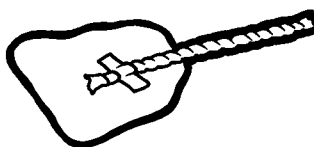
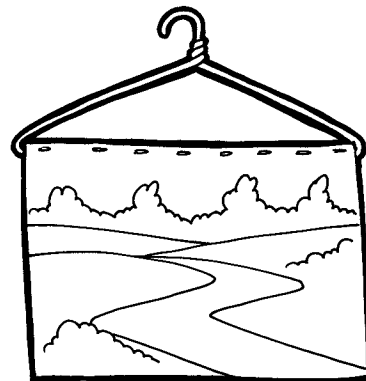
Prey – an animal that is eaten by other animals for food

Materials Needed:

coat hanger
yarn or string
tape
glue
sheet of paper

Directions:

1. Fold a blank sheet of paper in half. Draw a habitat scene on each side. Staple or tape the ends of the paper together over the hanger.
2. Trace or make photo copies of the pictures provided on page 23 and cut them out.
3. Tape different lengths of yarn or string to the top of each animal cutout.
4. Tape a string from each prey animal to the picture of its predator.
5. Tape the string from the predator to its place in the habitat.



NORTH DAKOTA'S PRAIRIES



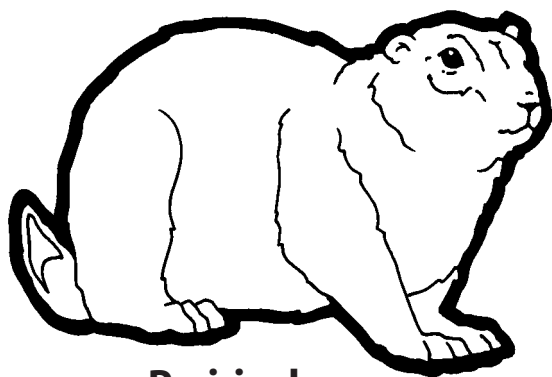
Color the pictures of the animals.
Cut them out and then build the prairie mobile.



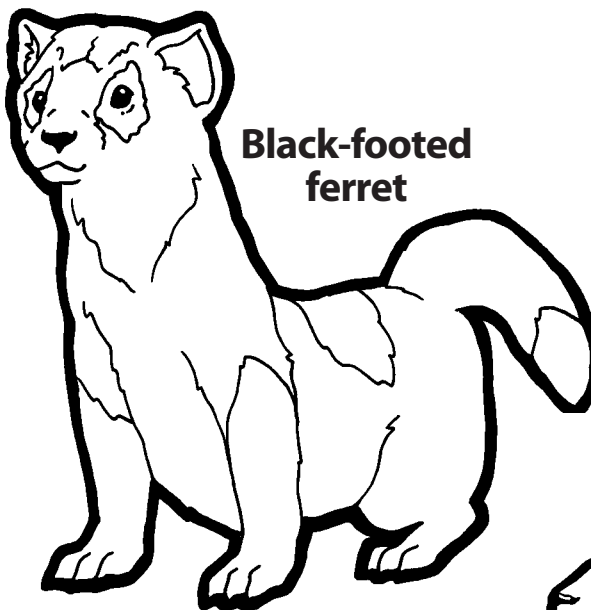
Badger



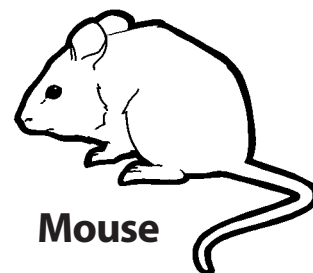
Prairie falcon



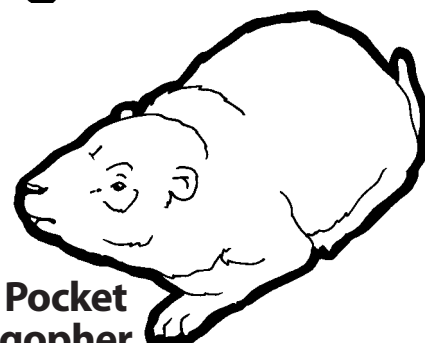
Prairie dog



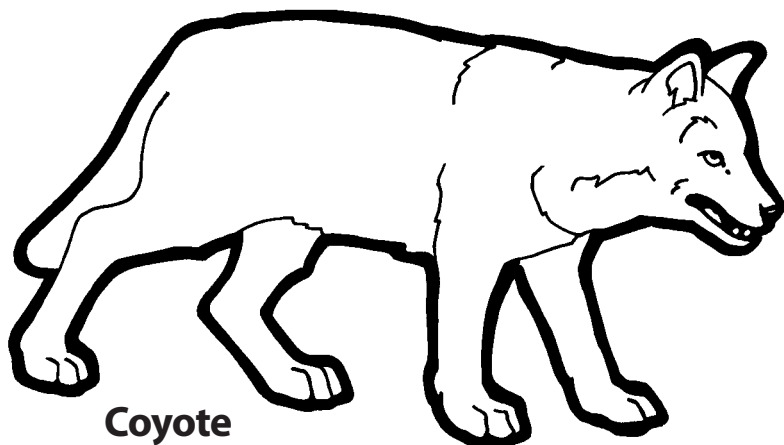
**Black-footed
ferret**



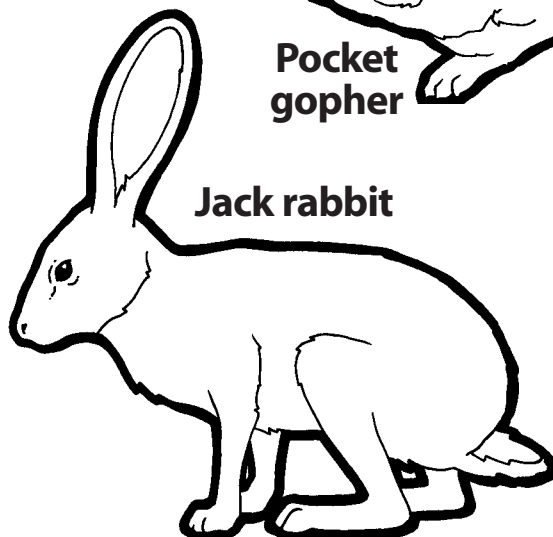
Mouse



**Pocket
gopher**



Coyote



Jack rabbit

